

the centinel



Volume 26, Number 2
Winter, 1978

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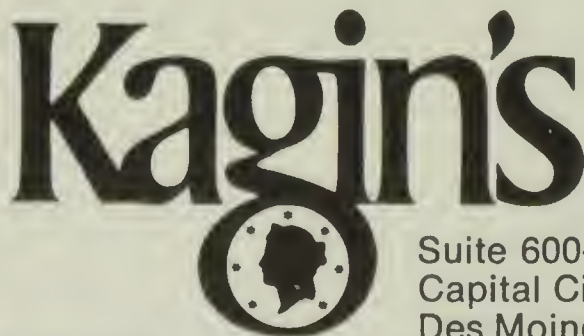
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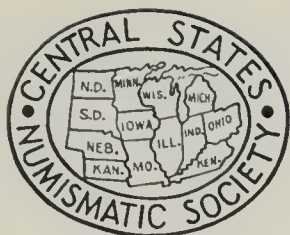
**CSNS Central States, April 25-29, 1979
Dearborn, MI**

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the centinel

Official Publication/Central States Numismatic Society

VOL. 27, No. 1

Winter, 1979

All Lights Are Green For The 40th Convention

Yes, it's on to Dearborn, Michigan for the 40th Annual Convention of the Central States Numismatic Society. The site is the 800-room Hyatt Regency-Dearborn, one of Michigan's most plush and beautiful hotels. The hotel is beautifully located on the grounds of Henry Ford's home, Fairlane. It is a site that will interest everyone, the collector and those just accompanying the hobbyist to this, the second largest coin convention in America.

Most everyone knows that Dearborn is an affluent suburb of Detroit and home of the Ford Motor Company. Here is where Ford designs, engineers, tests, and builds its cars. World headquarters of the Ford Motor Company are located only steps from convention headquarters. Just a few minutes away one may view one of the most impressive industrial achievements of the 20th century — the Rouge Manufacturing Complex. You can see the assembly of an automobile from its component parts to the driving away of the complete car in only a few minutes.

The convention committee is headed by Chairperson Helen Sedo, who is no neophyte to convention planning. (She has chaired two highly successful State Society Conventions.) She

will be ably assisted by people who are experienced in all phases of planning and carrying out a great coin show. The Dearborn Coin Club was co-founded by one of the CSNS Governors, Don Squire. He has company in one of the charter members, Dan Parker. Dan is past president of CSNS and presently editor of the Centinel. The club has 113 members, including 13 of the original charter members.

The Hyatt Regency is connected to the fabulous Fairlane Shopping Center by an electronically controlled 'people mover'. The shopping center contains more than 180 shops, boutiques, and restaurants — ranging from the elegant to the unusual — along with 5 theaters featuring first run movies, a year-around ice arena, **plus** parking for 10,000 cars. The hotel has a heliport, and space to park campers and trailers.

One of the nation's top tourist attractions is only minutes away — the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village. In this complex is the world's largest collection of Americana. It is a living monument to the history of America. In its 240 acres, Greenfield Village contains nearly 100 buildings moved here from their original

(Continued on Page 2)

sites. All are completely restored and all are living history. Visitors may tour the Wright Brothers' bicycle shop, Thomas Edison's Menlo Park Laboratory, the court room where Lincoln practiced law, or buildings where such great Americans as Noah Webster, Luther Burbank, Stephen Foster and Henry Ford lived and worked. Visitors can walk in the steps of these famous men and nearly feel their presence.

The Village also contains a unique craft area. Ten structures house a dozen different craft demonstrations that re-create the skills of our ancestors. Within the Village, Suwanee Park holds a family entertainment center so near and dear to all at the turn of the century. Visitors can ride a beautifully restored 1913 merry-go-round, try their skills at 30 antique games, or just relax in a turn-of-the-century New England soda fountain. A variety of rides are available in

season, including carriage, sleigh, steamboat, and steam train.

Adjacent to the Village is the Henry Ford Museum. An exact replica of Independence Hall forms the facade of this 14-acre structure. The interior documents America's transition from home crafts to industry. The multi-engined plane that carried Admiral Richard Byrd to the North and South Poles, 200 antique, classic, and historic automobiles. Many early locomotives are displayed here. Yes, the entire family will enjoy and be entertained at this facility.

Dearborn is only minutes away from Detroit's new Renaissance Center. It is convenient, via tunnel or bridge, to Windsor, Ontario. Easily reached by 3 interstate highways, I-75, I-94, and I-96, it is less than 10 minutes away from Detroit Metropolitan Airport. Yes, all lights are green for Dearborn and Central States, April 25 thru April 29, 1979!!!

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PRESIDENTIAL

COMMENTARY

Our CSNS interim meeting was held in Omaha, Nebraska, November 4th and 5th, in conjunction with the Omaha Coin Club's annual show. All officers and nine board members were present. Also in attendance were Harold Berk (immediate past president), George Hatie (legal counsel), and Dan Parker (our new editor).

Many matters which had been tabled previously were satisfactorily resolved. Much was accomplished and it was a most successful meeting.

Helen Sedo, general chairperson of the 1979 CSNS Convention, which is to be held in Dearborn, Michigan, April 27, 28, and 29, was invited and reported on the progress of the preparations.

The 1980 CSNS Convention was awarded to the Nebraska Numismatic Association to be held in Lincoln. It will be headed by Larry Rowe as general chairman. With Dearborn, Michigan in 1979, Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1980, followed by Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1981, and Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1982, our future CSNS Conventions are spread throughout the CSNS area.

George Hatie is to review our present Convention Manual and recommend revisions to the board for consideration.

We have received the final results of the 1978 St. Louis CSNS Convention from Bernice Stevenson, general chairperson, and they are most gratifying. Thank you, "Bink" and Dave for a job well done!



A. P. "Del" Bertschy

It is not too early to start making plans to attend the CSNS Convention in Dearborn in the spring.

— A. P. "DEL" BERTSCHY
President

SPECIAL NEWS FLASH

A false fire alarm at the Holiday Inn in Omaha disclosed some deep, dark secrets concerning your board. At 4:00 a.m., when the alarm went off, thank goodness that none of your board members sleep in the — "au naturel". 'Tis said that one member of the official family did not even awaken. (Either a sound sleeper or else a willing participant in the previous evening's revelry.)

P.S. The Legal Counsel got completely dressed — less necktie — to flee the supposed fire!!!

A MESSAGE FROM THE

SECRETARY



Marjorie M. Owen

As of this writing, your Board of Governors is preparing to visit the Omaha Coin Club and hold its interim meeting. The board tries to hold these meetings in various places around our 13-state area. If your state or local club would be interested in hosting the board, please contact me, and I will be glad to bring it to their attention. This is a good way for us to meet some of the members in a closer manner. One of the principal reasons for the organization is to promote the hobby, and we feel that these outings do serve that purpose.

I cannot reiterate this too many times — we need more junior members. These people are the ones who will perpetuate this hobby, and we are lacking in our endeavors to encourage young people. If any one of

you has an idea, proven or otherwise, on how to enlist more youth into our hobby, won't you share it with us?

Remember, too, you have a long winter to prepare your exhibits for the annual convention in Dearborn. This is an important aspect of these gatherings, and a very worthwhile one. This is the way we share our knowledge; not only with our fellow collectors, but with the public in general. The exhibit chairman will be listed, if not in this issue, well before convention time. Helen Sedo of Dearborn is general chairman, and will be glad to refer you to the proper person.

Dues notices will be reaching you soon. Please return them to me as soon as possible. Also, if you have had a change of address, don't fail to note this on your return. You might want to consider Life Membership, to avoid this yearly billing. I will be glad to furnish you with details upon request. I wish for each and every one of you the Most Happy of Holidays!!

— MARJORIE M. OWEN
Secretary-Treasurer

A commemorative half dollar honoring Cincinnati's 50th year as a music center was authorized March 31, 1936.

★ ★ ★

Nickel cents are the copper-nickel U.S. cents of 1857-1864, containing 12 percent nickel.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

The persons named below have applied for membership in the Society. Each applicant will become a member in 30 days unless a written objection to his or her application is received by the Secretary-Treasurer prior to that date.

New Member Applicants

Since the Fall, 1978, Issue of THE CENTINEL

3130	Arline Bishins	New York, New York
3131	Edward C. Lee	Wellesley, Massachusetts
3132	Don Bingaman	East Detroit, Michigan
3133	Earnie Shavers	Leavittsburg, Ohio
3134	Kevin Lipton	Paramus, New Jersey
3135	Jerome D. Fossum	Newburg, North Dakota
3136	Bruce A. Bauer	Sioux Falls, South Dakota
3137	Alan Yaffe	Cambridge, Massachusetts
3138	John R. Boland	Cedar Rapids, Iowa
3139	David P. Boland	Cedar Rapids, Iowa
3140	Dorothy F. Clark	Des Moines, Iowa
3141	Leroy Lindbloom	Grinnell, Iowa
3142	Dan Drykerman	San Diego, California
3143	D. E. Remus	Grand Rapids, Michigan
3144	Arleen Bishins	New York, New York
3145	Steven Koelbl	La Crosse, Wisconsin
3146	Ward Kain	Wayland, Missouri
3147	Milford Nicholson	Webster City, Iowa
3148	Virg Marshall III	Wymore, Nebraska
3149	Ray Rose	McCloud, Nebraska
3150	Larry Rowe	Lincoln, Nebraska
3151	Ed Anderson	Omaha, Nebraska
3152	John R. LaPlant	Cambridge, Wisconsin
3153	Mark E. Hays	Bellevue, Nebraska
3154	Myron G. Cipperley	Storm Lake, Iowa
3155	Billy G. Conner	Underwood, Iowa
3156	Robert Wojtas	Franklin Park, Illinois
3157	Dean D. Updyke	Fredericktown, Ohio

LIFE MEMBER

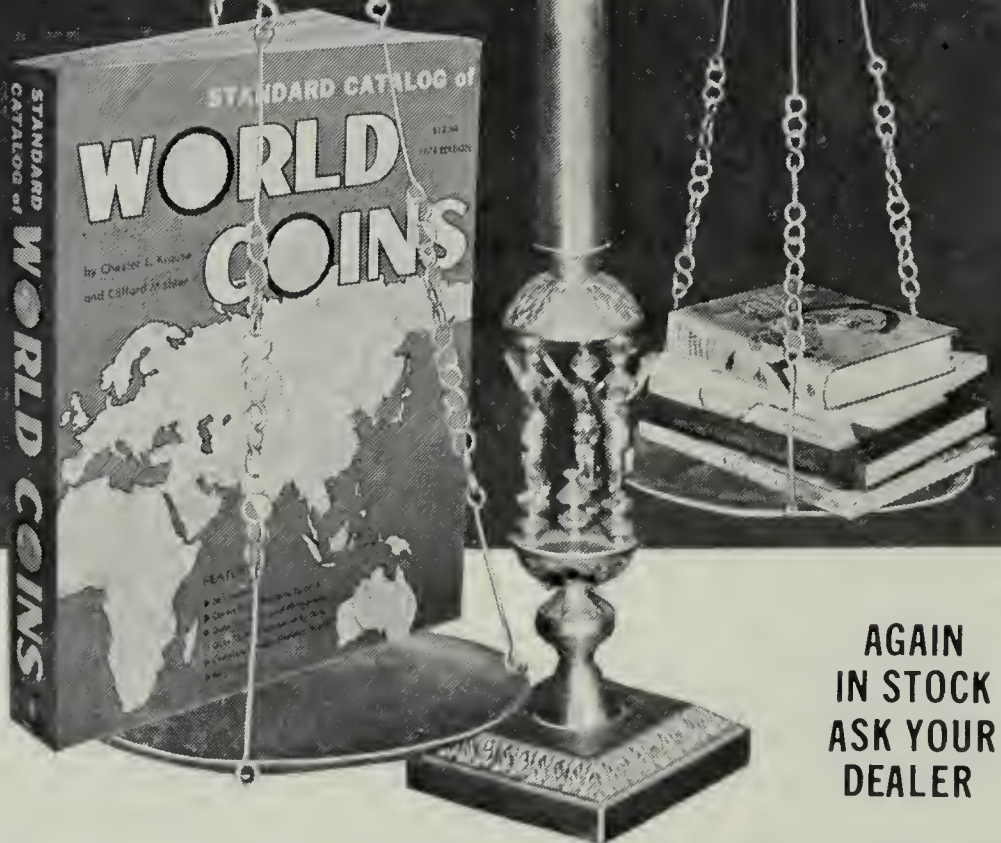
184	Howard Linville	Indianapolis, Indiana
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TO OUR IOWA FRIENDS:

At the organizational meeting of the Iowa State Numismatic Association, Lee Hewitt, founder of the NUMISMATIC SCRAPBOOK, helped publicize the Iowa meeting. He wrote of an Iowa man in Lee's home town of

Keokuk, Iowa, who owned an 1804 dollar. As it turned out, the 1804 was a phony coin altered from an 1801. However, the phony coin generated a lot of interest — possibly more than the genuine might have.

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10th RELEASE IN T.A.M.S. SERIES



The Token and Medal Society has announced the availability of an official medal issue noting the presidency of Clifford Mishler, whose two-year term of office concluded this past August during the organization's meetings held in conjunction with the annual American Numismatic Association convention.

Like earlier issues, this tenth addition to the TAMS past presidents medal series is again a two-inch diameter piece which is being offered to collectors in both mahogany-finished bronze and antique fine silver versions. Only 25 examples of the silver version have been struck.

In addition to the bronze and silver editions now being offered for sale to collectors, a single gold-filled specimen of the issue was also struck and included in a set of medals presented to the retiring president.

Bronze examples of the Mishler presidential medal are priced at \$10 each, and the silver at \$47 per medal. The bronze and silver versions may also be purchased as a pair for just \$55.

Medals honoring TAMS' previous past presidents — Dr. George Fuld, 1960-62; James J. Curto, 1962-63; Paul Hamm, 1963-64; Virginia Culver, 1964-66; William B. Spilman, 1966-68; Ralph A. Mitchell, 1968-70; George D. Hatie,

1970-72; Byron Johnson, 1972-74; Dottie Dow, 1974-76 — also remain available in bronze at \$9 per medal. A few examples of the Curto, Mitchell, Johnson and Dow issues also remain available in silver at \$35 per medal until the supply is exhausted.

All orders for TAMS' past president medals should be accompanied by payment in the name of the Token and Medal Society and directed to TAMS, P.O. Box 316, Iola, Wis. 54945.

★ ★ ★

The first clad coins, quarters, were struck at the Philadelphia mint August 23, 1965.

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The ABCs of Numismatics

— by Daniel C. Parker, NLG



The Dean Of American Numismatics

By Daniel C. Parker, NLG

In various previous articles the author has made reference to the "Father of Modern Coin Collecting." We meant the title in its most respectful connotation. There is no hesitation or doubt in this author's mind that B. Max Mehl is deserving of that title. He, more than anyone before or since that time popularized our hobby. He brought it out of the affluent man's domain and made it a hobby for all ages and economic strata.

Years ago, when this author was still a youngster, we can recall ads in many popular publications of the era which read: "Pay \$50.00 for a 1913 Liberty Head Nickel." In those days, a nickel would buy much more than 60 minutes on a parking meter. It bought 2 scoops of ice cream on a sugar cone, a Saturday matinee at the local movie house, and other such treats. It was a respected sum and a respected coin. Scanning hundreds of publications of the 20s and 30s, we have never seen an ad placed by other than B. Max Mehl.

Who was B. Max Mehl? A Lithuanian immigrant, born in 1884, brought to this country at the age of 9. It was customary in those days

to either go to work or begin an apprenticeship at a relatively early age. Mr. Mehl began working as a clerk in Fort Worth, Texas, at the age of 16. Evidently he developed his life-long romance with coins and things numismatic at this time. A physically small man just over five feet tall, he developed into a giant in the hobby with a gigantic ego. He was quoted as saying, "I have never been taken in by a counterfeit coin!" It is doubtful that any dealer today would dare make such a statement. One has to have boundless confidence in his knowledge and judgment to say such a thing. Many of today's most respected names in our hobby admit to being led and influenced by this 'giant'. He was a true student of the Science of Numismatics!

The writer owns an arm-load of catalogs of Mr. Mehl's auctions. We also possess many of the publications carrying Mr. Mehl's ads. It seems that Mehl tried to word his advertising on a very personal basis. Mr. Mehl sold at auction all of the rarities and most of the important collections in the nation — but — he would never allow floor bidding! It had to be by mail! Quite an anachrony. Further, he would not sell coins in his possession except by mail. When a customer appeared in Fort Worth, Mr. Mehl would wine and dine him, and then send him

home to seriously consider his purchase. Mehl's explanation, "I don't want the buyer to feel any obligation to buy. I'm never sure that he didn't just want to visit and talk to me." Always, he insisted that the buyer return home, give his purchase serious consideration, and then — and only then — if still in the mood to buy, — write. Difficult to understand? Hardly, in his day Mr. Mehl sold the 'King of American Coins', the 1804 dollar, at least four times. The writer believes that the specimen contained in the greatest collection of American coins, the Eliasberg Collection, was purchased from B. Max Mehl for the unheard of sum of \$10,500! (In the past year an identical 1804 dollar sold for \$200,000!!)

To get back to advertising, we older collectors can recall in one of the ads placed by Mehl a short catalogue of 'buy' prices that was free. In Mr. Mehl's words, 'for just an occasional order'. Another, much more complete was offered for 50c, while the top of the line, "The Star Rare Coin Encyclopedia and Premium Catalogue" was offered for \$1.00. Without any trepidation, this writer hazards that Mehl was offered more coins than all other dealers in the country combined. Mehl brought the hobby to John Q. Public and John Q. Public brought the coins back to Mehl!

The author owns many of the cata-

logues of B. Max Mehl's auctions. We also own many of the 'buy' catalogues. In perusal of these catalogues we get to understand the law of "supply and demand." It is most clearly illustrated when Mehl offers from 25c to \$2.50 for the 20c coin of the United States. In Mehl's own words, they **must** be uncirculated specimens. It should be understood by the reader that at this time, collectors were few, demand was small. Prices were ridiculously low to the buyer by today's standards.

In 1934, Mr. Mehl's catalogue offered a half cent, large cent, flying eagle cent, 2c piece, 3c piece and silver pieces, half dime (pre-1838), 20c piece, Isabella quarter, a half dollar with lettered edge, Colombian half dollar, seated Liberty dollar, and a trade dollar; the complete collection for \$11.25!!! Unbelievable? Several years later Mehl's catalogue revealed the

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rising popularity of numismatics by asking \$4.85 for 5 different Commemorative halves — all labeled 'choice'. In the Numismatic Scrapbook of January, 1940, Mr. Mehl offers for sale the following Indian head cents: 1873, \$1.45; 1874, \$2.10; 1875, \$1.85. Lincoln head cents: 1909 SVDB (very special) \$1.85. All were uncirculated and advertised as choice. Mr. Mehl delivered to the satisfaction of thousands of customers whom he served. How could he do it? Undoubtedly because he had a sufficient supply to fill all orders!

What started this 'Little Giant of Numismatics'? As a boy, he started collecting and began his life-long romance with coins. With his limited earnings he soon realized that unless he dealt in some of the coins he was collecting, he could never hope to possess some of the coins that intrigued him. Therefore, he placed an ad, his first, offering some of the coins for sale. Oddly enough, a letter that was not an offer to buy — rather — a Denver collector offered to sell Mehl a group of \$50 'slugs'. With his limited means Mehl could not hope to handle such a collection. So, he wrote the collector asking that he be allowed to offer these pioneer coins to collectors whom he knew. The Denver collector must have sensed that he was dealing with an honest man. Instead of sending Mehl just a few, he sent him the entire collection. This first deal enabled Mr. Mehl to get into the business of selling coins.

Mehl had a fantastic knowledge of human nature. Had he come along 40 or 50 years later, he would have made a fortune in Madison Avenue. At times, he was spectacular, at other times, his ads sounded as if he was just a 'country boy'. At one time he paid \$17,500 for an ad in Hearst's Sunday Magazine with nation-wide circulation.

No dealer can stay in business long unless he has the material to sell. Mr.

Mehl probably brought out of hiding many, many small hoards. More than anyone before or since! Dealing with Mehl was a continual thing. He bought collections from clients and resold them to others. In time, when the second purchaser was ready to sell, Mr. Mehl bought them and resold again and again a third and possibly a fourth time.

Among Mr. Mehl's clients was Col. Ned "Teddy" Green. Col. Green was the son of the notorious Hetty Green, the 'Witch of Wall Street'. It was she who was widowed with a fortune of \$10 million and in only 10 years ran it up to \$100 million. Col. Green, the son, was one of America's finest collectors. The fact that he could afford the finest and rarest helped make him a top numismatist. Col. Green became a client of Mehl's quite by accident. A simple letter from Green to Mehl, asking how much a type set of American coins would cost, started the 'ball rolling'. Mehl owned the Joy collection at this time. He itemized it, sent the inventory to Col. Green, and a short time later came Col. Green's check for the entire collection. Until Col. Green's death it is estimated that Mehl sold him \$500,000 worth of coins.

The crowning achievement of B. Max Mehl's career was undoubtedly his "Royal Sale" in which he disposed of King Farouk's duplicates of American and foreign coins. The writer has before him the catalogue of that sale. The catalogue in itself, the cover, the printing, the overall quality, is worthy of the finest collections. Of the 4700 lots offered, only 310 were consigned by Farouk. Yet, Mehl called it the Royal Sale. Mehl couldn't get permission to use Farouk's portrait on the cover so — he caused it to be printed with a coin on the cover, bearing Farouk's portrait. A super salesman and truly, "THE DEAN OF AMERICAN NUMISMATICS"!

FUTURE CSNS CONVENTIONS

- April 25-29, 1979** **Hyatt Regency** **Dearborn, Michigan**
 Chairman: Ms. Helen Sedo, P.O. Box 891, Dearborn, Michigan 48121.
- April 17-20, 1980** **Pershing Auditorium** **Lincoln, Nebraska**
 Chairman: Lawrence (Larry) E. Rowe, 6726 Vine St., Lincoln, Nebraska
 68505 (Telephone: 402-466-2265).
- Dates to be announced, 1981** **Indianapolis, Indiana**
- Dates to be announced, 1982** **Cedar Rapids, Iowa**
- Dates to be announced, 1983** **Louisville, Kentucky**

NOTE TO CLUB OFFICIALS: Interested in hosting a future CSNS convention? It's not too early to begin thinking of the future! Submit your letter of invitation to the CSNS Secretary-Treasurer at your earliest convenience. Your request will receive the prompt attention of the Officers and Board of Governors.

NOTICE TO OUR INDIANA FRIENDS:

Indianapolis has a coin club! The Indianapolis Coin Club was organized September 25, 1940. Officers are: L. H. Riggs, president; W. E. Pollard, vice president; Richard B. Whitney, secretary; S. G. Kasberg, treasurer; and Ray Fiscus, librarian-curator. Meetings are to be held the fourth Wednesday of each month.

* * *

President J. Hewitt Judd of the Central States Numismatic Society and President V. Leon Belt of the Iowa Numismatic Association met in Des Moines and worked out the details of a joint convention of the societies. It will be held at the Fort Des Moines Hotel on May 8-10. James Kelly of Dayton will be the auctioneer at the two-session auction in conjunction with the convention.

It was announced that a plaque donated by Stack's of New York would be donated at the convention to the club which did the outstanding numismatic work during the year. This plaque is still passed on today, 36 years later, to the club that has been the host to the Central States Numismatic Society in annual convention.

At this time (1942), Mrs. Harriette

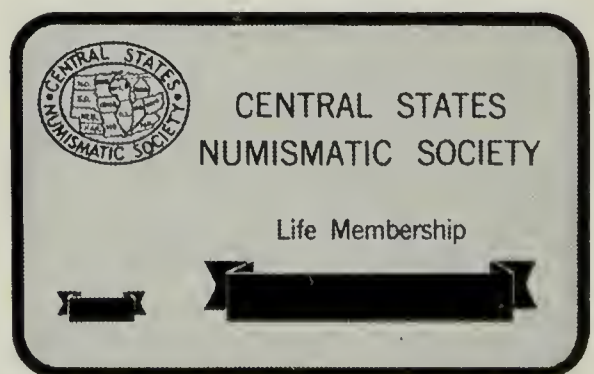
Hammer of Burlington, Iowa, was secretary of the CSNS.

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CSNS Secretary-Treasurer
609 So. 9th
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William McKinley And The Posthumous Memorial Coin

By Leonard H. Hecht, ANA J91110

William McKinley, our twenty-fifth president, through his conservative views gained the loyalty of his country as well as the respect from other countries as the United States emerged into a world power.

His industrious, pious, and modest parents acted as a perfect model for the future president to follow. His mother was known for caring for sick friends, helping the poor, providing lodging for ministers and teachers, and sharing in the community problems. It is important for one to realize that even though the McKinleys made little money that they still helped those with less than they had. William McKinley was the seventh of nine children. He was named after his father.

William McKinley, Sr., was a partner in a local foundry. Even though he was uneducated he made sure that his children would be schooled. The McKinley household was full of books for the children to read.

The children were sent to the Methodist Sunday School before they attended regular school. William, Jr., enjoyed school and excelled in recitation. Even at childhood, he had the unique ability to judge people through conversation, and could find solutions to problems quickly through reflection and insight.¹

The McKinley family moved to Poland, Ohio for the children's education. Poland boasted a private academy. In the academy, William played an active role in the society debates. He spent a great deal of his free time in the academy's library

reading the works of Longfellow, Whittier, and Byron.

McKinley, at the age of seventeen, enrolled in Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania. Due to illness, he left the college in his first year during the winter of 1860.

As a strong abolitionist, McKinley, along with William Osborne, a close friend and cousin, enlisted in the Twenty-third Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment in June, 1861. At the end of the Civil War, William McKinley emerged as a brevet major.

After the war he turned his efforts to law and politics. He studied law under the prominent attorney, Charles Glidden. In September, 1866, McKinley enrolled in the fall term of Albany Law School. He left the school in the spring of 1867. In March of that year, McKinley was admitted to the bar of Warren, Ohio.

McKinley opened his first law office in a bank building which housed Canton's most prominent attorneys and businessmen.

In 1869, McKinley was elected prosecuting attorney for Stack County. It is surprising that he won since the county usually voted Democrat; he was a Republican.²

In 1876, McKinley was elected to the United States House of Representatives. He served in the House for fifteen years except for one break which lasted ten months. In the House, among other bills, he sponsored a bill which would raise tariffs to new highs. He favored the expansion of silver currency. He also favored the

(Continued on Page 14)

Fourteenth Amendment by helping to reduce southern representation in the House until the Negroes were enfranchised. After three years in Congress, he was elected to the Ways and Means Committee, the most important committee in Congress. President Garfield used McKinley's advice when forming his cabinet.

In 1891, McKinley became governor of his home state, Ohio.

William McKinley was elected to the Presidency of the United States of America in 1896, at the age of 56. Under McKinley's administration the United States became a major world power. Through the Spanish-American War with Spain, Guam, the Philippines, and Puerto Rico became part of the United States. McKinley established the "Open Door Policy" whereby China was opened to trade with the United States.

On March 4, 1900, McKinley signed the Gold Standard Act into law. This declared that gold was the standard of United States currency. The law provided for a gold reserve to be established for the redemption of the green backs. The number of national banks with small capital was increased in rural areas.³

At the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York, McKinley delivered one of his most important speeches. The President pledged modification in his high tariff policy. The following day, September 6, 1901, McKinley was shot at a reception held at the exposition. He died on September 14.

The assassin, Leon Czolgosz, later said that he had the urge to kill a "great ruler." He was electrocuted.⁴

Theodore Roosevelt, then vice-president, was vacationing in the Adirondack Mountains at the time. He did not arrive at Buffalo until after the President had died.

Mrs. McKinley was so shocked that she never returned to the White House

nor did she attend the burial rites. Her final years were spent at Canton, Ohio. She died in 1907 and was buried beside her husband at McKinley Memorial in Canton.

The circular monument is seventy-five feet in diameter, topped by a dome which is ninety-seven feet high.

In 1916 and 1917, the United States Mint issued the McKinley Memorial Gold Dollar. Proceeds from the sales of these coins were used to help pay for the Memorial. The obverse, designed by C. E. Barber, depicts a portrait of President McKinley, and the reverse, designed by G. T. Morgan, illustrates the monument.

According to the "Official A.N.A. Grading Standard for United States Coins" when grading this coin, the first points of wear on the obverse are usually in McKinley's temple area; and hair above the ear, and for the reverse, the pillar above the second "1" in the date and the bottom of the flagpole.⁵

References

- 1 H. Wayne Morgan, **William McKinley and His America** (Syracuse, N. Y.: Syracuse University Press, 1963), p. 8.
- 2 ———. **World Book Encyclopedia**, Volume 13 (Chicago, Illinois: Field Enterprises Educational Corporation, 1969), p. 274.
- 3 **William McKinley and His America**, p. 483.
- 4 **World Book Encyclopedia**, Volume 13, p. 276.
- 5 American Numismatic Association, **Official A.N.A. Grading Standards for United States Coins** (Colorado Springs, Colorado: American Numismatic Association, Western Publishing Co., 1977). p. 350.

About the Author

Leonard H. Hecht was born April 5, 1963 in Queens, New York. He started coin collecting when he was ten years old. Leonard has been co-chairman for many young numismatist programs in New York. He is the founder of the Holliswood Numismatic Association, a group comprised of young numismatists, which holds ANA membership. Leonard, now in grade 10, attends the Kew Forest School in Forest Hills, New York.

the centinel

SPOTLIGHT

By Kurt R. Krueger, NLG News

Under a rather bleak and threatening sky, Kathy, Kristofor and myself loaded up the old Suburban and took off for our annual Memorial Day holiday to the splendor of the great Wisconsin northwoods. The call of the whispering pines and crystal clear waters of yet unspoiled lands inspire my fantasies even more than my numismatic pursuits.

Nature was not to provide ideal weather, however. A cold front had moved in and the heavens opened her valves and quenched the thirsty northwoods with much-needed rain. For us, however, the deep-running water of a virgin lake had yielded one of her mighty prizes, a wolf of the waterways, the elusive Wisconsin muskie.

The exciting compromise for the unruly weather was in the offing, however, as Saturday evening was the tenth reunion of the Medford High School class of '68. For me, it was a very special occasion. Medford, the pleasant North-Central Wisconsin community where my numismatic interest was first spawned, was my home for my first 16 years. I had attended my first two high school years there, so for me, many of the faces had been unseen for a dozen years.

Nearly 70 per cent of the sons and daughters of a decade past had gathered. The class had produced a doctor, a lawyer, several technicians, and a number of business-oriented people. As a professional numismatist, my vocational pursuit was probably the most unusual.

Among the first to greet me was



Jeff Bockin, a towering gent who had been a companion on many early adventures. He seemed a bit amazed that my childhood hobby had been transformed into a business. He reminded me of the time that I had talked him out of an old two-cent piece for the paltry sum of a quarter. Another early adventure came to mind as our conversation progressed. Many a summer day had been spent rooting around the local dump in quest of old bottles, scrap copper and other collectible treasures. One such trip had yielded an old cigar box fully loaded with an array of foreign coins. For a pair of summer urchins, it was a most spectacular reward.

Another friendly face stepped forth. John Gebert, a next-door neighbor and coin collecting comrade whom I had not seen for eight years, expressed an interest in my numismatic career, noting that he followed my writings. Our conversation brought

(Continued on Page 16)

to mind many memorable Saturday afternoons sorting cents into the slots of old egg cartons. An ingenious chap, Johnnie had devised his own coin albums long before he had heard of a man named Dick Yeoman or a company named Whitman.

Among the crowd I caught a glimpse of Don Haas, an early comrade who shared my days with me as we knocked on door after door asking if the occupants had any old coins. Our toils had rewarded us with many additions to the empty slots of our cardboard holders. I didn't get a chance to chat with Don, but I had talked with him at a coin show in Wausau about a year ago. He was still very active as a hobbyist and enjoyed our conversation with recollections of early searches.

I guess that just about every fellow had an infatuation with the girl down the street. I am no exception. In my case, Mary Lynn Hirt, now married to another classmate, Marc Kliet, stepped forth and asked if I still was involved with the coin business. My answer was affirmative, and she replied that her dad, Les, had always said that I had a knack at wheeling and dealing. Les had helped me with my collecting endeavors as a youngster. It was an ideal situation for me, as I had the opportunity not only to trade with Les at his home for coins I needed, but also the opportunity to be close to his lovely clan of four daughters.

There were many more meetings as the night progressed. Not all were reminiscent of coin collecting. Many had indicated that they had read my by-line and had seen my offerings of numismatic material.

Perhaps the most interesting comment of the evening came from a guy who shall remain unnamed. He stated, "You don't look like a rich person." I chuckled and told him that I had never said that I was, but that I did manage to keep the wolves away. As he walked away, I turned to Kathy and grinned and thought of that little tyke back at the cottage with grandma and grandpa and thought of how lucky I was to be in the vocation of my own choosing. A feeling of satisfaction swept over me, as I counted the real wealth of my life.

DID YOU KNOW? Teresa Cafarelli was so inspired with her first glimpse of the Statue of Liberty that she always volunteered to play the role of Liberty in school dramas. Later, as Mrs. Anthony DeFrancisci, her dream was realized. She modeled as Liberty on the U.S. Peace Dollar.

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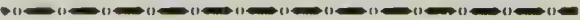
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Essay Contest

Adolf Weiss, president and one of the three original founders of "PAK", the Full-Step Jefferson Nickel Club, has announced a new and refreshing competition for young numismatists. "PAK", an organization of Jefferson Nickel enthusiasts, is undertaking a serious promotion of the hobby and especially the underrated Jefferson Five Cent piece by encouraging the forgotten young members of our great hobby to participate in an essay contest.

Every young collector-numismatist from the age of 11 to 17 is eligible to participate. He or she does not have to be a member of "PAK". Each entry in the essay competition must include the entrant's name, age, school, grade and club affiliations, if any. The title of the essay-composition is: "I like Jefferson Nickels because . . ." The minimum words for each is 250 and not to exceed 450.

Entries are accepted throughout the calendar year without any date restrictions and should be addressed to John E. Tanner, Route 2, Box 125-A, Gilbertsville, Ky. 42044, the scholarship fund administrator. Each entry submitted will receive awards of uncirculated Jefferson nickels with the amount depending on the quality

of the essay. Each month the highest-graded essay will become eligible to compete for the annual scholarship award to the Young Numismatists ANA Summer seminar held each year in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The first phase of the competition was begun in September, 1978, and the first scholarship award will be for ANA Summer Seminar scheduled for July, 1979.

The judges for the scholarship competition consist of some of the most knowledgeable numismatists on the hobby scene today: Bill Fivaz of Georgia, Karl Ward of Alaska, Natalie Helpern of New York, Tom Miller of Maryland, John Wexler of Pennsylvania, Alan Herbert of *Numismatic News*, and Florence Schook of Michigan.

This competition has the full support and funding of "PAK" and promises to be one of the most exciting events for young numismatists to come down the pike in a long while. For further information, contact John Tanner, Route 2, Gilbertsville, Ky. 42014. Young numismatists, get your pencils sharpened and start writing.

Attention Our Wisconsin Friends:

A hoard of coins discovered at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire is believed to date back to the early depression days. The hoard includes a \$20 gold piece; six \$5 half eagles, and two quarter eagles, as well as 3 French francs, an English sixpence, more than 80 Indian head cents, and an old dime. It was found in an old box used for index cards. The presence of the gold coins suggests they were acquired for tuition when the former Eau Claire Normal School tuition was less than \$20/month. People who didn't have large enough bank accounts to write a check for that amount were required to pay in gold.

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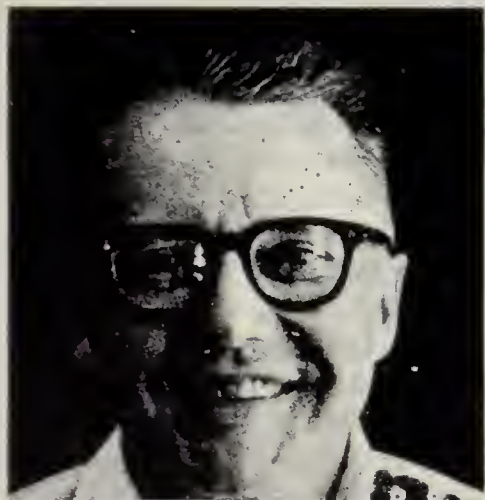
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JAMES C. AYER — The Medicine Man



By Gerald Johnson — WNWA

The later years of the 19th century, particularly the years 1840 to 1900, were the years of the greatest heyday of the patent medicine pitchman. Relic bottles dug from the nation's long-forgotten dumping grounds, old advertising flyers, and a number of excellent numismatic items remain to remind us of the pioneer work of the "Patent Medicine Man." The innovative patent medicine man was quick to use the latest advertising gimmick, and when the Civil War dried up the nation's coinage supply through the hoarding of all types of coinage, gold, silver and copper, he welcomed the encased postage stamp as a useful advertising media.

Postage stamps had been pressed into service by the public in 1861 and early 1862 as circulating small change, but the stamps had a short life span and were generally a sodden, sticky mess within a few weeks. In 1862 John Gault, a New York businessman, devised a simple metal shell to hold the circulating stamps, and the emergency coin was an immediate and much welcomed success.

The stamp holder itself was a patented metal holder of light brass in which a stamp was enclosed and covered with a face of mica to make the denomination readable. Gault made money on his patent, but would have made much more had not the postal service closed down his supply of stamps due to a short supply.

Pioneer medicine in the early 1800's in America covered a spectrum that ran from the elaborate European indoctrinated medical practice of the established cities, to the "practical" medicine of the nation's voyagers and frontiersmen. This practical medicine of the frontiersman was heavily drawn from our American Indian predecessors and the home remedies of the immigrant poor who made up in large part the population of the westward surge of the first half of the century.

It was a fertile time for the medicinal innovator and the huckster, although the two were not necessarily synonymous. Historically speaking, patent medicine has had a bad image since the exposes of the early 1900's which resulted in the pure drug laws, many of which are still in force to this day. Perhaps the most respected, or at least one of the most renowned patent medicine brands were the products of Dr. James C. Ayer.

In a relatively brief number of years, Ayer ran up and left a personal estate of millions of dollars, by today's inflated values, a fortune of incredible proportions. Ayer started with a cough cure that did not have a foul taste, a new concept in the health

(Continued on Page 20)

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Medicine Man —

field of this time, where effective medicine was always presumed to be bad tasting. (Hence: take your medicine like a man, and other sayings.) Soon after, Ayer added a fever cure and hair invigorator to his line, but his famous Ayer pill was to be a popular patent medicine well into the 20th century.

Ayer was a prolific advertiser, hundreds of different trade cards, almanacs, booklets and paper memorabilia survive today. The illustrated counter stamped coin is an indication of the innovative use of media by this super salesman of the 1870's.

When our nation's coinage laws were redefined in 1857 outlawing the use of foreign coins as legal tender in the Continental United States, Ayer was able to obtain large quantities of foreign coins at bargain prices. These "ex legal tender" coins made excellent pocket piece advertisements when counter stamped. Using foreign coins also circumvented the law dealing with defacing United States coins.

The Ayer firm was also the largest issuer and user of the Civil War emergency coin, the encased stamp, although they exist in over 200 types issued by 31 merchants. Collectors of both coins and stamps covet the encased stamps, as well as the fractional currency the federal government put into service the same year to relieve the coin shortage. Encased stamps are considered "scarce" by numismatic standards of rarity.

Thanks to the Numismatic Scrapbook:

Report on the 1942 CSNS Convention:

Officers elected for the following year are: I. T. Kopicki, president; Carl Shelby, Muncie, Indiana, 1st vice president; Richard Yeoman, Racine, Wisconsin, 2nd vice president. President Kopicki appointed Thomas Shrugue of Chicago as secretary-treasurer.

Counterfeiting Was Once A Legitimate Business

(Taken from the "Sunday Call" of Newark, N. J. Issue of June, 1895)

A white-haired old gentleman named Clark was in Newark last week for the first time since the close of the Civil War. Since, he has been living in Minnesota. His errand to Newark, he said, was one of curiosity alone. Last week he visited Belleville again for the first time in 39 years. Upon his return to the Continental Hotel he told his impressions of the place to a chance acquaintance, another old veteran.

"Belleville is the place I have revisited which shows few marked changes," he said. "The river is dirtier, and a few of the old houses and factories have been destroyed, but generally speaking, the town has little changed in thirty years. Or, in fact, the past 70. The upper part of town along Washington Avenue is all new and I don't count that part at all. I am interested in that part of town lying along the river road. It is just as homely and as pretty as when I was a boy and the chief industry in Belleville was coining counterfeit money. Yes sir, counterfeiting was the most lucrative work in the place sixty years ago or thereabouts.

"I helped at the work for old man Uffington when I was a boy in the village and I can assure you that no one thought there was any harm in it. There were Stevens and Uffington, both Englishmen, partners in the business. Uffington had money which he brought from England with him. Stevens was a skilled coiner and die sinker. Then there were old James Moffit and T. G. Moffitt and Joseph Gardner, all engaged in the business. They did not counterfeit American

coins or they would have been quickly stopped. Their business was making good imitations of South and Central American coins, and at that time, there was no law against it.

"The coins were struck in dies from base metal and were plated and packed in bags containing 50 or 75 pounds. These were packed singly in cases and marked as general merchandise. They were taken to Elizabethport or Anchoy and transferred to big sailing ships. There was no risk attached to the business until foreign waters were reached. Then, the coins had to be smuggled in. If the smugglers were too closely pressed, they would sometimes drop the money overboard. At one time, three of them were caught and hanged in Brazil. They were customers of the Belleville coiners but in no way identified with Newark. The business went on for years without interruption.

"You remember Jerry, who used to keep the Black Horse Tavern at the stone bridge, just above Clay Street, in the City? Well, he was a coiner and used to talk freely about it. I have heard Jerry say that it was a dull day when you couldn't make 5 or 6 dollars working for Moffit. Joseph Gardner, who afterward made stove ornaments in Newark, was a skilled die-maker and was imported from England by Uffington. I think, however, he worked first for others and then went into business for himself and made a big fortune, but lost a great deal of it in a conflict with the government.

"The Brazilians induced our government to make a law against coun-

(Continued on Page 22)

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Counterfeiting —

terfeiting foreign coins, and although it did not stop the Belleville enterprise completely, it forced the men to carry on their business more secretly. Another thing that knocked the business out was that some parties seeing how easy it was to make foreign coins, began practicing on coins.

"I remember hearing there was a regular den of counterfeiters across the river in Bergen county. One man, who afterward lived in Newark, could not resist the temptation to make quarters and halves, and was caught through a Negro servant who stole some of the coins and was arrested in trying to pass them. He told where he got them and a search of his employed's house disclosed evidence against the old man. The other coiners rallied to his aid and the best legal talent in New York was employed. He got frequent stays, but finally went to prison. This broke up the business.

"For years afterward, when a house or factory was torn down, it was not uncommon to find counterfeit money hidden away in secret corners. I remember well that when Dan Rice's circus was in town, I went with a counterfeit half-dollar that I found in Second River, under the old wire mill. On another occasion when I was poking around in the cellar of an old house, I found a lot of blackened Mexican coins in a pocket in the foundation which was stopped up with a roughly-fitted wedge of stone."

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NOSTALGIA CORNER

(From the pages of the Numismatic Scrapbook, 1940)

Stack's Collection A: Large cents, flying eagle cents, Indian head bronze and nickel-copper cents, two-cent, cent, three cents silver and nickel, shield-type nickel, dime over 100 years old, quarter and half-dollar over 100 years old, an 1875 20 cent piece --- this splendid type collection very special — \$3.90!!!!

William J. Schultz: 1907 unc. \$20 gold: wire edge Roman numeral, \$45; round edge Roman numeral, \$41; round edge Arabic numerals, \$42.50; round edge 'D' mint, \$42.59.

Ben's Stamp and Coin: Complete set of Indian head bronze proofs, 1864-1909, 46 pieces, in holder, \$125.00!

M. Lortz: 1938D half dollars, unc., 95c each!

Stack's: Liberty head nickels: Unc. 1883 WC 10c, proof 40c; unc. 1883 NC \$1, proof \$1.50; unc. 1885 \$7.50, proof \$10.00.

B. Max Mehl: U.S. Silver Dollars: 1800 & 1802 G - VG \$3.65 each, 1802 over 01, & 1803 G - VG, \$3.95 each; 1795 half dollar, \$2.45.

Pittsburgh Coin Exchange: Proof set 1936, \$7.50; 1937, \$4.00; 1938, \$3.00; 1939, \$2.50.

M. C. Nivison: Trade Dollars Proof: 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, \$4.00 each; 1883, \$4.75.

William J. Schultz: Panama-Pacific Set in Easel: Perfect! \$650.00.

A. E. Bebee: Indian Head Cents: 1908S unc. \$2.00, 1909S \$5.00; Lincoln Head: 1909 SVDB \$2.25; 1909S \$1.50.

Many collectors (of accumulators) have tried to corner the market on some scarce piece. Right now (1942)

we know of a party who buys every 1878 20 cent piece offered. Another well-known mid-western collector tried to buy up every 1928 Hawaiian half in sight. He has quit, however, after accumulating some 800 pieces. P.S. He still has them!

The U.S. note suspected of being counterfeit, should first be checked for the red and blue fibers in the paper, then compared with a genuine note of the same denomination to determine if there is a difference between the two notes.

IN MEMORIAM

Kenneth Ferguson, Sr.

An old-time member passed away at his home in California. A former resident of Cleveland, Ohio, recently moved to the west coast. Father of Kenneth Ferguson, Jr., former member of the Board of CSNS.

May he rest in peace.

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In 1974, the Canadian Mint struck and shipped the 10,000 pieces of each coin to Trinidad, to be released into circulation by the commercial banks. Only the citizens of Trinidad had the chance to obtain these coins. With a population of over 700,000, the coins quickly disappeared. Being a one year type — Tenth Anniversary coins, these scarce coins have a historical value to the citizens of Trinidad. It is highly unlikely, any that were saved will enter circulation or have been properly preserved.

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M — Melbourne;
P — Perth Mint.

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1958-M (5)	1,506	57.50
1959-M (5)	1,506	79.50
1960-M (4)	1,509	47.50
1963-M (4)	5,042	24.50
1961-M, P (6)		

M - 1,506; P - 1,040 57.50
1962-M, P (6)

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1966 (2) 15,000 Identical

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1965 (2) 4,000 13.50

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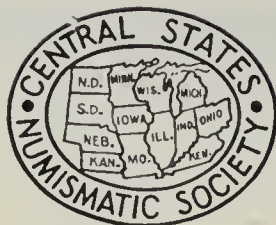
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